

concerns with several key provisions, which is why it is my hope that if the Senate passes its own version of this legislation, these troubled provisions could be eliminated in a conference between both chambers. If not, then I reserve the right to vote no on any vote on final passage.

RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE
FIND STEPHEN K. BANNON IN
CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of holding Steve Bannon in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer a Congressional subpoena and in support of truth, transparency, and the rule of law.

January 6 was one of the most heinous attacks on American democracy that our country has ever seen. We have mountains of evidence that these rioters, encouraged by and organized by some of our country's highest officials, intended to overthrow our democracy at the behest of Donald Trump.

We must get to the bottom of what happened, not only to hold these insurrectionists accountable, but to prevent something like this from ever happening again.

Steve Bannon clearly had inside knowledge of what was going to happen that day. He even said on January 5 that "all hell was going to break loose" on January 6. He has information that must be shared.

The January 6 commission is a bipartisan effort to get the truth.

This goes beyond party politics—this is about the safety and security of our democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting to hold Steve Bannon in contempt for his refusal to comply with the Committee's subpoena. Vote for yes.

REMEMBERING MIMI LEVIN
LIEBER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my good friend Mimi Levin Lieber, a beloved public servant and leader in early childhood education.

Mimi devoted her life to her mission of making literacy a right of all children, a passion that led her to launch Literacy Inc. (LINC), an organization in my district dedicated to providing children with a strong foundation of literacy early in life. Through her organization, Mimi was able to touch the lives of so many New Yorkers by taking an innovative community-based approach to learning that addressed the systemic inequalities in our education system.

Mimi believed that through reading, everything becomes possible. This conviction served her well while attending the University of Chicago for her Bachelor's and Master of

Arts Degrees and, later, training in London to become a pioneer in qualitative research. After completing a fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School for Education, she met her husband for life, Charles Lieber. Charles was a well-traveled, multi-lingual native of the Netherlands who fled the Nazi occupation of Belgium in 1940. Forty years later, he would go on to acquire the Hebrew Publishing Company, the oldest American publisher of Judaica.

After moving to New York in 1960, she and Charles raised four children on the Upper West Side. Mimi cherished being a mother and believed raising children was one of the most important, yet undervalued, roles in life. Mimi grew up in a cohesive Jewish community in Detroit, but she quickly became a true New Yorker who looked out for everyone in her community. She served on the synagogue board, Hebrew school board, the Jewish Board of Guardians, and Community Planning Board 7. While doing all this, Mimi, a trained sociologist, also founded Lieber Attitude Research which became one of the first firms to employ focus groups to help companies understand client thinking.

This public service and her sociology background led me to nominate her to the New York State Board of Regents, where she served New York students for 15 years. While on the board, she successfully lobbied politicians around the state to make critical investments necessary to turn young children in the five boroughs into learners for life. During her service, she became a breast cancer survivor and spoke openly about her illness when many would not. Mimi never viewed public service as a sacrifice; she believed in the power of community and viewed the ability to serve others as a privilege. One of her sons, Janno Lieber, continued her tradition of public service and currently serves as Acting Chair and CEO of New York's MTA. In her later years, she spent much of her time at her family's countryside retreat in Spencertown, New York and continued to serve on the board of LINC.

Her legacy reminds us that we must support and invest in our children's education from the earliest years, when it matters the most, and that universal literacy is critical to sustaining a healthy democracy. Mimi will truly be missed, and she has left her imprint on the thousands of readers she inspired through her advocacy. Mimi is survived by her children, grandchildren, and members of her LINC family. May her memory be a blessing.

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, and to pay tribute to the numerous individuals and their families across our country living with this condition.

Spina Bifida is the nation's most common, permanently disabling, birth defect compatible with life. According to the March of Dimes, about 1,645 babies are born with this condition in the United States each year, with its

prevalence being highest in the Hispanic population. Known as a neural tube defect, Spina Bifida stems from a hole in the spinal cord that occurs when the spinal column fails to close properly during development in the womb. As a result, this condition impacts virtually every major organ system in the body. Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they become adults. Adults living with Spina Bifida face a myriad of physical and mental health conditions, as well as other challenges, such as unemployment and limited access to quality primary and specialty care.

Over the last three decades we have made significant strides in preventing this birth defect and managing the care of those born with this condition. In response to research showing the incidence of Spina Bifida could be reduced by up to 70 percent with the addition of folic acid in a woman's diet, the United States Public Health Service recommended that all women of childbearing years should take 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent having a pregnancy affected by a neural tube defect. Based on this recommendation, I introduced the Folic Acid Promotion and Birth Defects Prevention Act, which was passed into law as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This Act authorized a program within CDC to provide professional and public education for folic acid awareness.

In 1998, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration required that folic acid be added to enriched grain products such as bread, pasta, rice, and cereal to increase the likelihood that women would have sufficient folic acid in their diet before becoming pregnant. And in 2016, after years of advocacy with the FDA and the corn masa industry, folic acid fortification of corn masa flour was finally begun to target Hispanic communities that consume more corn masa products than grains. But there is still much work to be done to ensure adequate consumption of this critical nutrient that can neural tube defects.

There are currently an estimated 166,000 individuals in the United States living with Spina Bifida, approximately 65 of whom are adults. This disease is now witnessing its first generation of adults, an incredible milestone, considering that the original designation of Spina Bifida as a childhood condition meant most children born with this condition did not experience life beyond youth. Today, a generation of adults living with Spina Bifida, some of whom are 65 years and older, is an achievement worth celebrating. But unfortunately, there remain many unmet needs and additional health challenges affecting this medically fragile population.

As individuals develop, their clinical needs change, as should the type of care, and often the type of medical professional they see for that care. One challenge is that while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the United States, there is no equivalent for adults. Thus, the "graduating child" enters a very fractured medical system where individuals struggle to find physicians willing to provide treatment. Unfortunately, many of these physicians lack basic knowledge of this complex condition, and thousands of young to middle-aged adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room—or continue to see their pediatric care team at Spina Bifida Centers, which are designed for children.

In recent years, the Spina Bifida community has seen a growing incidence of sudden death in its over 25 population. There is speculation this sudden loss of life has something to do with the central nervous system, but the cause or causes remain unknown. As such, we must explore and understand this sudden death phenomenon so we can reverse this troubling trend. Moreover, we must support—and expand investment in—research to address other issues related to Spina Bifida and associated secondary and co-morbid conditions, such as hydrocephalus, latex allergy, neurogenic bladder and bowel problems, developmental delay, and impaired executive functioning.

The CDC's National Spina Bifida Program is the sole federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people with Spina Bifida. In 2008, the Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry (NSBPR) to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families a "window" into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference. Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network (SBCCN) to identify and disseminate "best practices" for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages. These programs continue to improve quality-of-life and outcomes for people with this birth defect, but their full potential has been constrained due to flat federal funding over the last six years. Additional funding could expand the number of clinics participating in the registry and increase the amount of information reported, which will provide further insights into how to continue improving care and outcomes for people with Spina Bifida.

People with Spina Bifida deserve no less than the rest of us as we age. During a lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least a \$1,000,000 in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries, and most can expect to spend much of their lives in a wheel-

chair or walking with braces. We must ensure that adults with Spina Bifida can receive evidence-based medical care tailored for their condition and receive that care in age-appropriate, non-emergency settings. I call upon my Congressional colleagues to prioritize increased funding for the CDC Spina Bifida Program to ensure that it will be poised to best guide the health care community in optimal treatment options for people living with Spina Bifida.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF MR. PAUL
WRABEC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to celebrate the life and legacy of a dear friend, an ambitious leader, and a dedicated public servant: Paul Wrabec. Paul, who passed away on October 20th, never faltered from advocating for the causes he was deeply passionate about, and his advocacy undoubtedly made Jackson County a better place to call home. As a beloved and active member of the Greater Kansas City community, he created change and inspired future generations of policy makers to lead with a sense of conviction. Paul will be missed dearly, and his life is well worth remembering.

A lifelong resident of Sugar Creek, Missouri, Paul comes from a proud Croatian and Slavic family that immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Growing up in this thriving immigrant community, Paul was taught the values of equality, union rights, and environmental stewardship. Throughout his life, Paul remained committed to those values as he led a fulfilling career as a civil servant.

A graduate of St. Mary High School and Rockhurst University, Wrabec retired from environmental remediation work in 2005. Oper-

ating the Kansas City, Sugar Creek, and Independence License offices with his son, Cyril, Paul ensured that disabled and elderly members of the community had access to much needed services. But his impact as an empathetic community member didn't stop there.

Paul also served on the Sugar Creek Board of Aldermen, and then was first elected to the Jackson County Democratic Party committee in 1978 and was its longest-serving chairperson in nearly 100 years. He was known throughout Jackson County for being able to "run circles" around others in fundraising and for constantly raising the bar for successful local campaigns. Always emphasizing the importance of voting, Paul worked tirelessly to rally communities throughout Independence and Sugar Creek ahead of critical elections.

While Paul certainly wore his political beliefs on his sleeve as a loyal Democrat, he was a steadfast believer in building relationships with those across the aisle. Indeed, he found ways to make peace with people from all walks of life, and his gentle demeanor and contagious smile always made him a joy to be around. There is no doubt that he established a connection with every individual he came across.

Looking beyond his extraordinary work as a public official, Paul was a heartfelt family man who enjoyed hunting and fishing at the Lake of the Ozarks with his family. Making time for his loved ones was always his first priority. Paul's storytelling of family history and generous nature will be missed, but all those who have met him will still have felt his impact for the rest of their lives.

Many still remember times when Paul picked up hitchhikers, gave money to the homeless, and happily lent a helping hand to anyone needing anything.

Madam Speaker, please join me in remembering the inspiring, impactful life of Paul Wrabec. Please also join me in offering condolences to his family and all those mourning his loss. Let us seek to emulate his example in the work we do here by preserving Paul's story of public service and human empathy.